



UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

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First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

YASUHIRO HINO

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APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO:

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Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☐ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification Total Pages
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) Total Sheets
5. ☐ Oath or Declaration Total Pages
 - a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed Statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR
1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b)
6. ☒ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer
Program (*Appendix*)
8. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
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 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
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 - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ paper
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ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure ☐ Copies of IDS
Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
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16. ☐ Other: _____

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. ____/_____
Prior application information Examiner Group/Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts

18 CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label 05514
(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here) or ☐ Correspondence address below

NAME

Address

City

State

Zip Code

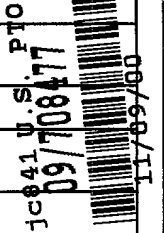
Country

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CLAIMS	(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) CALCULATIONS
	TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	16-20 =	0	X \$ 18.00 =	\$0
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b))	3-3 =	0	X \$ 80.00 =	\$0
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 CFR 1.16(d))			\$270.00 =	\$0
				BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))	\$710.00
	Total of above Calculations =				\$710.00
	Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				0
	TOTAL =				\$710.00



19. Small entity status
- a. ☐ A small entity statement is enclosed
- b. ☐ A small entity statement was filed in the prior nonprovisional application and such status is still proper and desired.
- c. ☐ Is no longer claimed.
20. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 710.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
21. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the recordal fee is enclosed.
22. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1205:
- a. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- b. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17.
- c. ☐ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.18.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED	
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DATE	November 9, 2000

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PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATIONS

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Priority Claimed:: Yes
Foreign Application Two:: 2000-319932
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Country:: Japan
Priority Claimed:: Yes

IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE
PROCESSING METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an image processing apparatus, an image processing method for managing setting information every user, and a storage medium.

10 Related Background Art

In a conventional printer unit which applies page description language (PDL), it is general to perform printing output by receiving data with an RGB format for color designation of color data and a GRAY (gray
15 scale) format for color designation of monochrome data, and converting the received data into a CMYK format.

When color conversion from the RGB format into the CMYK format is performed, a finetuned conversion result is calculated as CMYK values according to a mechanical
20 process of the printer unit or the printing content. Since this color conversion method is held in the printer unit as a previously determined conversion expression or a conversion coefficient, this method is uniformly applied to printing data being an output
25 target (or an output object).

However, an impression for the output color is different for each user and influenced by an individual

fancy or desire. Furthermore, for a user such as an
aged person or a handicapped person in color vision,
there occurs a problem that colors hard to be
discriminated or viewed by an normal output result
5 exist.

Therefore, in case of commonly possessing the
above conventional printer unit by the plural users, it
was difficult to satisfy all the users with regard to
color adjustment.

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is applied under the
consideration of the above conventional example and an
object is to provide an image processing apparatus and
a method thereof capable of performing an optimal color
15 adjustment every user.

An image processing apparatus of the present
invention comprises: a hold means for holding setting
information every user; an input means for inputting a
print job; and an adjustment means for specifying a
20 user who instructs the print job according to print job
information and adjusting a color image on the basis of
said setting information of the specified user.

Other objects and features of the present
25 invention will become apparent from the following
detailed description and the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a side cross sectional diagram of an LBP (laser beam printer) according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the functional structure of the LBP in the first embodiment;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the structure of a printer control system in the first embodiment;

10 Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing a print control procedure in the first embodiment;

Fig. 5 is a flow chart showing a drawing processing procedure in the first embodiment;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart showing a tone adjustment processing procedure in the first embodiment;

15 Fig. 7 is a flow chart showing a tint adjustment processing procedure in the first embodiment;

Fig. 8 is a flow chart showing a density adjustment processing procedure in the first embodiment;

20 Fig. 9 is a diagram showing structural examples of objects in the first embodiment;

Figs. 10A, 10B, 10C and 10D are diagrams showing concrete examples of tint adjustment result in the first embodiment;

25 Fig. 11 is a diagram showing an example of a user interface in the first embodiment;

Fig. 12 is a diagram showing a display example of

the profile content in the first embodiment;

Fig. 13 is a flow chart showing a tint adjustment processing procedure in the second embodiment;

Fig. 14 is a diagram showing examples of sample
5 outputs in the second embodiment;

Fig. 15 is a diagram showing an example of a user interface in the second embodiment;

Fig. 16 is a diagram showing an example of the user interface in the second embodiment;

Fig. 17 is a diagram showing an example of an E-mail to which a document of printing target is
10 attached;

Fig. 18 is a diagram showing an example of an E-mail when a profile is set using the E-mail;

Fig. 19 is a connection diagram of apparatuses
15 which are connected to a network; and

Fig. 20 is a diagram for explaining a storage method of storing profiles of plural users.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, the embodiments of the present invention will be explained in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[First Embodiment]

25 (mechanical structure)

At first, the structure of a laser beam printer (hereinafter LBP) preferable for applying the first

embodiment will be described with reference to Fig. 1.
It is needless to say that a printer applying the
present embodiment is not limited to the LBP but may be
a printer of another printing system.

5 Fig. 1 is a cross sectional diagram showing the
internal structure of the LBP to which the present
embodiment is applied. This LBP can register character
patterns from a source of data (not shown) and a fixed
style font (form data). In Fig. 1, numeral 1000
10 denotes an LBP main body, to which character
information (character code) supplied from a host
computer connected to an external, form information and
a macro command are input to be stored into the LBP,
where corresponding character patterns and form
15 patterns are produced according to the above
information, and an image is formed onto a recording
sheet being a recording medium. Numeral 1012 denotes
an operation panel (unit), where switches used for
operations, an LED display unit and the like are
20 arranged. Numeral 1001 denotes a printer control unit
which entirely controls the LBP 1000 and analyzes the
character information or the like supplied from the
host computer.

 The printer control unit 1001 converts mainly the
25 character information into a video signal of character
patterns which correspond to the character information,
then outputs the video signal to a laser driver 1002.

The laser driver 1002 is a circuit for driving a semiconductor laser unit 1003 and performs an ON/OFF switching operation of a laser beam 1004 irradiated from the semiconductor laser unit 1003 corresponding to the input video signal. The laser beam 1004 is reflected to the right and left directions by a rotative polygon mirror 1005 to scan a surface of an electrostatic drum 1106. Accordingly, an electrostatic latent image of the character patterns is formed onto the electrostatic drum 1006. This latent image is developed by a developing unit 1007 around the electrostatic drum 1006, thereafter, it is transferred onto the recording sheet. As the recording sheet, a cut sheet is used. The cut sheet (recording sheet) is stored in a sheet cassette 1008 installed in the LBP 1000 and is taken inside the LBP main body by a feed roller 1009 and carriage rollers 1010 and 1011 to be supplied to the electrostatic drum 1006.

(functional structure)

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the functional structure of the above LBP 1000.

In Fig. 2, numeral 2000 denotes a host computer, which is connected to the LBP 1000, outputs printing information constituted by printing data and control codes to the LBP 1000.

The LBP 1000 is roughly composed of a formatter control unit 1100, an interface unit 1200, an output

control unit 1300 and a printer engine unit 1400.

The formatter control unit 1100 is composed of a reception buffer 1101, a command discrimination unit 1102, a command analysis unit 1103, a command execution
5 unit 1104, a page memory 1105 and a tone control unit 1106.

The reception buffer 1101 is storage means for temporally storing the printing information received from the host computer 2000. The command
10 discrimination unit 1102 discriminates each print control command. The printing data is analyzed in the command analysis unit 1103 corresponding to the each command. The command analysis unit 1103 analyzes the
15 the command analysis unit 1103 is in an intermediate result of performing an analysis of the printing data and is converted into an intermediate code format of more executable in the command execution unit 1104.

In the command discrimination unit 1102, when it
20 is discriminated that the print control command is such a command of accompanying an expansion into the intermediate code format such as characters and figures, a color attribute is controlled in the tone control unit 1106. The tone control unit 1106 converts
25 a designated color into the optimal color for a user who executed printing processing.

In the command execution unit 1104, the each

command is executed by the above intermediate code, and the commands regarding drawing and printing are sequentially expanded into the page memory 1105.

Generally, the formatter control unit 1100 is
5 composed of a computer system which employs a CPU, a ROM, a RAM and the like.

The output control unit 1300 converts the content of the page memory 1105 into a video signal to transfer image data to the printer engine unit 1400. The
10 printer engine unit 1400 is a printing mechanism portion for forming a permanent visible image onto the recording sheet based on the received video signal.
(system structure)

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the structure of a printer control system for controlling the LBP 100 in
15 the present embodiment. It is needless to say that the present invention is applicable to a single equipment, a system composed of plural equipments or a system for executing processing through a network such as a LAN
20 (Local Area Network) or the like, if the function of the present embodiment is executed.

In Fig. 3, the host computer 2000 has a CPU 1 which executes word processing of mixedly containing various target information to be processed such as
25 figures, images, characters, tables (includes calculation in tables) and the like on the basis of a word processing program stored into a program ROM in a

ROM 3. Each device connected to a system bus 4 is entirely controlled by the CPU 1. A control program or the like of the CPU 1 is stored into the program ROM in the ROM 3, font data or the like used in the above word processing is stored into a font ROM in the ROM 3 and various data used in case of executing the above word processing or the like is stored into a data ROM in the ROM 3. A RAM 2 functions as a main memory of the CPU 1, a work area or the like.

10 Numeral 5 denotes a key board controller (KBC) which controls key inputting from a key board 9 or a pointing device (not shown). Numeral 6 denotes a CRT controller (CRTC) which controls displaying of a CRT display (CRT) 10. Numeral 7 denotes a memory
15 controller (MC) which controls accessing to an external memory 11 such as a hard disk (HD) for storing a boot program, various application software, font data, user files, editing files and the like, a floppy disk (FD) or the like. Numeral 8 denotes a printer controller
20 (PRTC) which is connected to the printer 1000 through a predetermined interactive interface (interface) 21 and executes control processing of a communication with the printer 1000.

The CPU 1 executes, for example, expansion
25 (rasterize) processing of an outline font to display information set on the RAM 2 so as to realize an WYSIWYG (user interface of "what you see is what you

get") on the CRT 10. Also, the CPU 1 opens various registered windows on the basis of commands instructed by use of a mouse cursor (not shown) or the like on the CRT 10 and executes various data processing.

5 In the LBP 1000, numeral 12 denotes a printer CPU which overall controls accessing to various devices connected to a system bus 15 on the basis of a control program or the like stored into a program ROM in a ROM 13 or a control program or the like stored into an
10 external memory 14 and outputs an image signal as output information to a printing unit (printer engine) 17 connected through a printing unit interface 16. Further, a control program or the like of the CPU 12 as indicated in a later-described flow chart may be stored
15 into the program ROM in the ROM 13. Font data or the like to be used in case of producing the above output information is stored into a font ROM in the ROM 13. In a case that the external memory 14 such as a hard
20 disk or the like is not prepared, information or the like to be utilized on the host computer 2000 is stored into a data ROM in the ROM 13.

The CPU 12 is in a state capable of communicating with the host computer through an input unit 18 and is structured that information or the like in the LBP 1000
25 can be notified to the host computer 2000. Numeral 19 denotes a RAM which functions as a main memory of the CPU 12, a work area or the like and is structured that

memory capacity can be expanded by an optional RAM which is connected to an increased port (not shown). It should be noted that the RAM 19 is used for an output information expansion area, an environmental data storage area, an NVRAM (non-volatile RAM) or the like. The above external memory 14 such as the hard disk (HD), an IC card or the like is controlled to access the printer control unit by a memory controller (MC) 20. The optionally connected external memory 14 stores font data, an emulation program, form data or the like.

Numerical 18 denotes the input unit, where switches used for an operation performed in the above operation panel 1012, the LED display unit and the like are arranged.

It should be noted that the above external memory is not limited to one piece but at least one or more pieces may be provided. That is, it may be structured that plural external memories which stores an optional font card in addition to the built-in font and a program capable of reading a printer language of different language system can be connected to the printer. Further, it may be structured that the printer has an NVRAM (not shown) to store printer mode setting information supplied according to an instruction from the operation panel 1012.

(printing control procedure)

Next, the printing control procedure in the LBP 1000 constituted by the above structure will be described with reference to flow charts shown in Figs. 4 to 8.

Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing main processing executed in the LBP 1000 from a start of operation to the end of operation.

At first, in a step S401, the printing data transmitted from the host computer 2000 is received and it is stored into the reception buffer 1101. Next, in a step S402, the printing data stored into the reception buffer is read out. Then, drawing processing is executed in a step S403. Thereafter, in a step S404, it is judged whether or not a printing end instruction is received, or the printing data is in an end status. If the printing end, the printing operation ends. However, if not the printing end, the processing from the step S401 is repeated.

Fig. 5 is a flow chart showing the detail of the drawing processing in the step S403 shown in Fig. 4. This drawing processing is processing of executing an actual printing.

At first, in a step S501, it is checked whether or not data to be processed is a discharge instruction in the command analysis unit 1103. If it is the discharge instruction, the flow advances to a step S506, and if it is not the discharge instruction, the flow advances

to a step S502, where it is judged whether or not the analyzed data is a command of accompanying expansion processing to the page memory, such as character printing, figure drawing or the like.

5 In case of not executing the expansion processing in the step S502, the flow advances to a step S505, where the command is immediately executed. However, in case of executing the expansion processing, the flow advances to a step S509, where tone adjustment
10 processing is executed. Thereafter, in a step S503, an intermediate code being a format of simplifying a command execution is generated. In a step S504, the expansion processing to the page memory 1105 is executed in the command execution unit 1104 upon
15 receiving the intermediate code. After terminating the expansion processing, the flow returns to the step S402 shown in Fig. 4 to repeat data analysis processing.

 On the other hand, in the step S501, if it is judged that the data to be processed is the discharge
20 instruction, the flow advances to the step S506, where the content of the page memory 1105 is converted into the video signal for the printer engine unit 1400 in the output control unit 1300 to perform a transference output of the image data. In a step S507, the printer
25 engine unit 1400 forms the permanent visible image onto the recording sheet based on the received video signal, thereby performing the printing. Then, in a step S508,

a sheet of the printed result is discharged, thereby terminating printing control processing per one page. (tone adjustment processing)

5 Fig. 6 is a flow chart showing the detail of the tone adjustment processing in the step S509 shown in Fig. 5. This processing is processing of giving the optimal tone adjustment for the user who executed the printing processing.

10 At first, in a step S601, a user name of a printing job is obtained. The user name of the printing job is transferred from the host computer 2000 when it is started to transfer the printing data, and is previously stored into a memory such as the NVRAM or the like.

15 Here, a profile every each user is previously registered into the NVRAM, and the user name every the profile is obtained in a step S602. In a step S603, the user name is sequentially compared with user names obtained according to the printing job.

20 In a step S604, it is judged whether or not a profile having a user name coincided with the user name of the printing job exists. If the above profile does not exist, processing is terminated as it is. In this case, a designated color is output as it is.

25 On the other hand, in the step S604, if the profile having the coincided user name exists, the flow advances to a step S605, where the color of a printing

target (or a printing object) is obtained. If the color of the object is designated by the RGB format in a step S606, the flow advances to a step S607, where tint adjustment processing is executed. However, if
5 the color is not designated by the RGB format, that is, the color is designated by the gray scale (GRAY) format, the flow advances to a step S608, where density adjustment processing is executed.

Next, one example of a method for obtaining the
10 user name of the printing job performed in the step S601 will be described with reference to Fig. 17.

As a method of automatically notifying the user name to an executing person (user) of the printing processing as an attribute of the job without
15 recognizing the own user name, a method of notifying the user name by use of a mail address is prepared. For example, in a case where a document of the printing target is attached to a received E-mail, it is possible to perform the notification by transferring the E-mail
20 to the printer.

Fig. 17 is a diagram showing a display example of an application software (hereinafter, referred as mailer) for transmitting and receiving E-mails. This user transfers the received E-mail to a printer address
25 represented by "prn01@mydomain.mycompany.com" (portion of sending To: in Fig. 17). Since a sender address (portion of sending From: in Fig. 17) is rewritten to a

transmitter address when the E-mail is transferred, the printer can specify the user name referring the sender's mail address.

Generally, in an office, since almost the network equipments physically located in near portions are connected to the same domain, in case of actually transferring the E-mail to the printer, a character column to be typed by the user is satisfied by inputting only the "prn01", thereby saving a work.

(details of object)

The structure of the above object will be described with reference to Fig. 9.

In Fig. 9, numeral 901 denotes an object management table for managing objects in the same page. In the object management table 901, various kinds of descriptions related to character columns (string char), polygons (polygon fill), rectangles (box fill), images and the like are written, and each of tables denoted by reference symbols (a) to (h) is linked to each of the above descriptions. Each of the tables (a) to (h) is linked to each of objects 902 to 909 in which descriptions of attributes such as drawing position, size, external form and the like are written. As one of these information, a description of color information designated by the RGB format or a density value based on the gray scale (GRAY) format is written. The objects 902 to 909 are represented by the

intermediate code format after performing a command analysis.

For example, a color designated in the object 902 is expressed by RGB = (500, 0, 100) and a color
5 designated in the object 903 is expressed by a gray value = (845).

(tint adjustment processing)

Fig. 7 is a flow chart showing the detail of the tint adjustment processing in the step S607 shown in
10 Fig. 6. This processing is processing of adjusting the color designated by the RGB format.

At first, in a step S701, a profile of corresponding the user is obtained from the NVRAM.
Next, in a step S702, it is judged whether or not an
15 adjustment is performed for a value of red (R).

In the present embodiment, for example, in case of not performing any adjustment for the value R, a value "zero" is set as an initial value. On the other hand, if any adjustment is performed for the value R, for
20 example, a value such as "+10", "-20" or the like is set. This value indicates a percentage when the value R is additionally adjusted.

In the step S702, if the value R is adjusted, the value R is to be adjusted in a step S703 according to
25 the following expression.

$$R = R \times \alpha R$$

where, $\alpha R = (100 + R \text{ setting value in profile})/100$

Namely, in a case where a color designation in the object is expressed by $R = 100$, if the value "+10" is set in the profile, the tint of the red (R) is converted into a status expressed by $R = 110$.

5 On the other hand, in the step S702, if the value R is not adjusted, the flow advances to a step S704 as it is without executing processing to the R (red).

 Hereafter, after executing the same processing as that for the red (R) to green (G) and blue (B), the
10 processing is terminated (steps S704 to S707).
 (user interface)

 An example of the user interface for adjusting the profile in the present embodiment will be described with reference to Figs. 11 and 12.

15 Fig. 11 is a diagram showing a display example on the display unit at the operation panel 1012. An adjustment method of a profile of which user name is "yamamoto" will be described.

 As shown in Fig. 11, "yamamoto" is displayed in
20 the most upper column as the user name, "color adjustment" is displayed in a second column as a menu item, "red (R)" is displayed in a third column as a setting item and "+30" is displayed in the most lower column as a setting value. In the most lower column,
25 with respect to arrow marks displayed on the left and right sides, the value is increased by depressing a right arrow key provided on the operation panel 1012

and the value is decreased by depressing a left arrow key on the operation panel 1012.

This value display is similarly displayed regarding colors of "green (G)" and "blue (B)" by
5 changing the setting item in the third column, and the user can rewrite an own profile by setting a desired adjustment value for each item.

Fig. 12 is a diagram showing a display example of the profile content related to the user name "yamamoto"
10 at the operation panel 1012. The profile content can be displayed at an arbitrary timing according to a panel operation performed by the user.

Next, an example of setting the profile using the E-mail from the host computer side will be described.
15 Fig. 18 is a diagram showing a display example of the mailer similar to the case in Fig. 17.

In this case, it is instructed that the value of green is increased by "30" according to one line starting with "#color-adjust:" being an initial text of
20 the E-mail, and the instruction is transmitted to the printer of which address is "prn01". In this way, it is possible to adjust the profile without using the operation panel by describing an adjustment of the profile to a mail text according to a previously
25 determined format. In this case, the printer reads that the line starting with the "#color-adjust" means to designate a profile adjustment, and the profile

adjustment can be realized only adding means for writing an instructed value into the NVRAM.

Further, an example of holding method of holding the profiles of plural users is shown in Figs. 19 and 20. Fig. 19 is a connection diagram of apparatuses connected to a network, through which the one printer unit 1000 is connected to three units of host computers 3000a to 3000c. The three host computers are used by each of three users whose user names are respectively "suzuki", "yamamoto" and "sato".

Here, it is assumed that both users "suzuki" and "sato" perform the printing operation without adjusting the profiles. In this case, the profiles of performing the printing operation of which user names are "suzuki@..." and "sato@..." are produced. Namely, initial value profiles are produced for each of the above user names. Next, if the user "yamamoto" gives an adjustment instruction of increasing the value of green by "30", a profile of which user name is "yamamoto@..." is produced, wherein the value "30" is added to the value of G (green) and the added result is stored into the NVRAM.

In this manner, each user name and corresponding profile values of R, G and B are stored into the NVRAM in the printer 1000 as shown in Fig. 20. In the next printing processing, the profile value coincided with the user name is referred.

(density adjustment processing)

Fig. 8 is a flow chart showing the detail of the density adjustment processing in the step S608 shown in Fig. 6. This processing is processing of adjusting the color (density) designated by the GRAY format.

At first, in a step S801, the profile of corresponding the user is obtained from the NVRAM. Next, in a step S802, it is judged whether or not a density value (dens) is adjusted.

In the present embodiment, in case of not performing any adjustment for the density value, a value "zero" is set (dens = 0) as an initial value. On the other hand, if any adjustment is performed for the density value, e.g., the value such as "+10", "-20" or the like is set as the dens. This value indicates a percentage when the density value is additionally adjusted.

In the step S802, if the density value is adjusted, a Gray value is to be adjusted in a step S803 according to the following expression.

$$\text{Gray} = \text{Gray} \times \alpha\text{Gray}$$

where, $\alpha\text{Gray} = (100 + \text{dens setting value in profile})/100$

That is, in a case that a color designation in the object is expressed by Gray = 100, if the value "+10" is set in the profile, the density is converted into a status expressed by Gray = 110.

On the other hand, in the step S802, if the density value is not adjusted, processing is terminated as it is without executing the processing to the Gray. (concrete examples of printing results)

5 Figs. 10A, 10B, 10C and 10D are diagrams showing printing examples in the present embodiment. Numerals 101 and 102 in Figs. 10A and 10B respectively denote the printing result of objects which are a red ellipsoid and a green character column.

10 Here, in case of performing a printing operation of superimposing the object 101 on the object 102, visible condition of a user handicapped in color vision is considered.

15 Fig. 10C schematically shows visible condition when the profile is not adjusted, that is, the printing output is performed on the basis of an initial value color. Since the color of the object 101 (red ellipsoid) can not be discriminated from the color of the object 102 (green character column), it is
20 understood that the character can not be recognized.

 Fig. 10D schematically shows visible condition when the printing output is performed by increasing especially the value of green according to the profile adjustment in the present embodiment. By this
25 adjustment, since the object 101 is discriminated from the object 102, these objects can be recognized.

 As described above, according to the present

embodiment, a precise color adjustment fitting to each user can be realized by providing the profile for the color adjustment every user.

It should be noted that the user name is not limited to a mail address of a sender in the E-mail but may be, in case of commonly possessing the printer on a LAN (Local Area Network), a log-in name, a host name, an IP address of TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) or the like.

[Second Embodiment]

Hereinafter, a second embodiment according to the present invention will be described. Since the structure of apparatuses and main processing or the like thereof are same as those which are described with reference to Figs. 1 to 5 in the above first embodiment, the description will be omitted.

In the above first embodiment, an example that a user directly sets a profile value by an operation on the operation panel 1012 has been described. However, for a user who does not acquaint with color setting, it is not easy to set an optimal value for each color. Therefore, in the second embodiment, it is characterized that the user selects desired color among sample outputs, thereby automatically performing a profile adjustment. Similar to a test printing (status print) function built in an ordinary printer, the sample output in the second embodiment is performed by

the operation on the operation panel 1012.

(sample output)

Examples of the sample outputs in the second embodiment are shown in Fig. 14. Setting examples of four samples respectively indicated by numerals 1 to 4 are shown in Fig. 14. As each of samples, circles are formed by respective colors of red (R), green (G) and blue (B) of which saturation differs every each sample. For example, the sample 1 sequentially indicates three colors of (RGB = 1000, 0, 0), (RGB = 0, 1000, 0) and (RGB = 0, 0, 1000) in the order from the left side. In the sample 2, only the red ratio in the sample 1 is decreased by ten percent. That is, the sample 2 sequentially indicates three colors of (RGB = 900, 0, 0), (RGB = 0, 1000, 0) and (RGB = 0, 0, 1000) in the order from the left side. Similarly, in the sample 3, only the green ratio in the sample 1 is decreased by ten percent. That is, the sample 3 sequentially indicates three colors of (RGB = 1000, 0, 0), (RGB = 0, 900, 0) and (RGB = 0, 0, 1000) in the order from the left side. Also, similarly, in the sample 4, only the blue ratio in the sample 1 is decreased by ten percent. That is, the sample 4 sequentially indicates three colors of (RGB = 1000, 0, 0), (RGB = 0, 1000, 0) and (RGB = 0, 0, 900) in the order from the left side.

The sample outputs shown in Fig. 14 can be output at an arbitrary timing by the operation instructed from

the operation panel 1012. Therefore, the user can select the optimal sample number (any of 1, 2, 3 and 4) after confirming an optimal color adjustment by own eyes among the sample outputs at a desired timing.

5 Of course, the sample outputs in the second embodiment are not limited to the examples shown in Fig. 14, but may be any output format capable of detecting a color adjustment value from sample images. Furthermore, for example, a halftone color may be used.

10 (user interface)

 The sample number selected by the user as above mentioned is input by the operation panel 1012. Now, the user interface when the selected sample number is input will be described.

15 Fig. 15 is a diagram showing a display example on a display unit at the operation panel 1012 and a state of inputting the sample number selected by a user "yamamoto". As shown in Fig. 15, "yamamoto" is displayed in the most upper column as a user name, the
20 "sample number" is displayed in a second column as a menu item and the number indicating the sample number to be selected is displayed in a third column. With respect to arrow marks displayed on the left and right sides of the third column, the value is increased by
25 depressing a right arrow key provided on the operation panel 1012 and the value is decreased by depressing a left arrow key on the operation panel 1012.

The user can select a desired sample number by arbitrarily setting the value in the third column.

Next, the user interface when the user name is selected will be described. Fig. 16 is a diagram showing a display example when the user name is selected at the operation panel 1012. As shown in Fig. 16, "user name selection" is displayed in the most upper column as a menu item and the user name is displayed in the second column. With respect to arrow marks displayed on the left and right sides of the second column, the user name is changed every depression of the right and left arrow keys provided on the operation panel 1012. Therefore, the user can easily select an own user name.

(profile adjustment)

Next, an example of the profile adjustment using the above sample output in the second embodiment will be described.

Fig. 13 is a flow chart showing the detail of tint adjustment processing in the step S607 shown in Fig. 6. This processing is processing of adjusting the color designated by an RGB format.

At first, in a step S1301, RGB values of a sample selected by the user are obtained. The RGB values of the sample output in the second embodiment are previously stored into a program ROM. Next, in a step S1302, the percentage of an adjustment range is

calculated on the basis of the obtained RGB values.
For example, if the second sample shown in Fig. 14 is
selected, the RGB values thereof are (RGB = 900, 0, 0).
Here, since an initial value of the R is "1000", the
5 percentage to be calculated is expressed as follows.

$$(1 - 900/1000) \times 100 = +10\%$$

Thereafter, the flow advances to a step S1303,
where this value is stored into a user profile stored
in an NVRAM.

10 As described above, according to the second
embodiment, any user can easily set a desired color
adjustment at an arbitrarily timing.

In the above each embodiment, an example of
performing the color adjustment based on the RGB format
15 and the gray scale (GRAY) format has been described.
However, the present invention is not limited to this
case, but may be applicable to another color expression
format such as an L*a*b* format, Luv format or the
like.

20 An example of performing the profile adjustment by
inputting an instruction from the operation panel 1012
has been described. However, this instruction input
may be performed by the print control command.

Although an example of setting the color
25 adjustment in the profile by use of an expression of
the percentage has been described, setting by use of an
expression of the absolute value may be applicable if

the color adjustment can be performed by that value.

Furthermore, it may be constituted that the user can select availability or unavailability of a profile setting.

- 5 As above, the present invention has been explained with reference to the preferred embodiment. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and various modifications are possible within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
hold means for holding setting information every
user;
5 input means for inputting a print job; and
 adjustment means for specifying a user who
instructs the print job according to print job
information and adjusting a color image on the basis of
the setting information of the specified user.
10
2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said adjustment means adjusts tone every object.
3. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein
15 said adjustment means adjusts tint if the object is
represented by color and adjusts density if the object
is represented by monochrome.
4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
20 said hold means holds a profile every user.
5. An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein
said profile holds a value every color component.
- 25 6. An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein
said profile holds a ratio for a reference value every
color component.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the representation of the color components depends on an RGB format and a gray scale format.

5 8. An apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising instruction input means for inputting a user instruction used for updating the content of said profile.

10 9. An apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising display means for displaying the content of said profile.

15 10. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising output means for outputting image data of which tone is adjusted every object by said adjustment means.

20 11. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said output means forms a visible image on a recording medium.

12. An apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising:

25 output means for outputting plural sample images which indicate different color adjustment result; and selection means for selecting the one sample image

among the plural sample images,

wherein the content of said profile is updated on
the basis of the selected sample image.

5 13. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
the print job is instructed by using an E-mail, and the
user is specified by sender information of the E-mail.

10 14. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further
comprising:

management means for managing the setting
information by causing the setting information to be
corresponded to the sender information of the E-mail;
and

15 change means for changing the setting information
being managed by using the E-mail.

20 15. An image processing method comprising:
a hold step of holding setting information every
user;

an input step of inputting a print job; and
an adjustment step of specifying a user who
instructs the print job according to print job
information and adjusting a color image on the basis of
25 the setting information of the specified user.

16. A storage medium which stores a

computer-readable program to execute the following steps for an image processing apparatus, said steps including:

- 5 a hold step of holding setting information every user;
- an input step of inputting a print job; and
- an adjustment step of specifying a user who instructs the print job according to print job information and adjusting a color image on the basis of
- 10 the setting information of the specified user.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing apparatus comprises hold means
for holding setting information every user, input means
for inputting a print job, and adjustment means for
5 specifying a user who instructs the print job according
to print job information and adjusting a color image on
the basis of the setting information of the specified
user. Accordingly, a precise color adjustment fitting
to each user can be realized by providing the profile
10 for the color adjustment every user.

FIG. 1

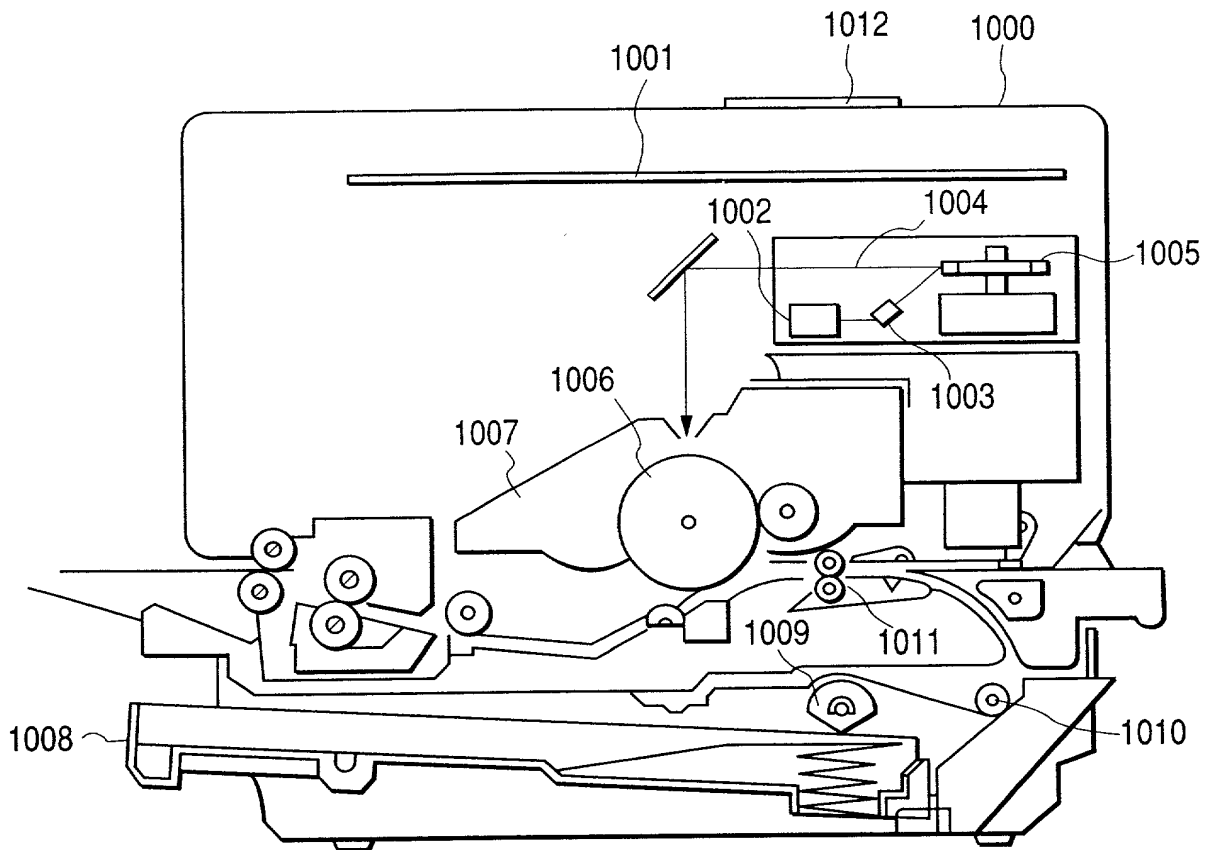


FIG. 2

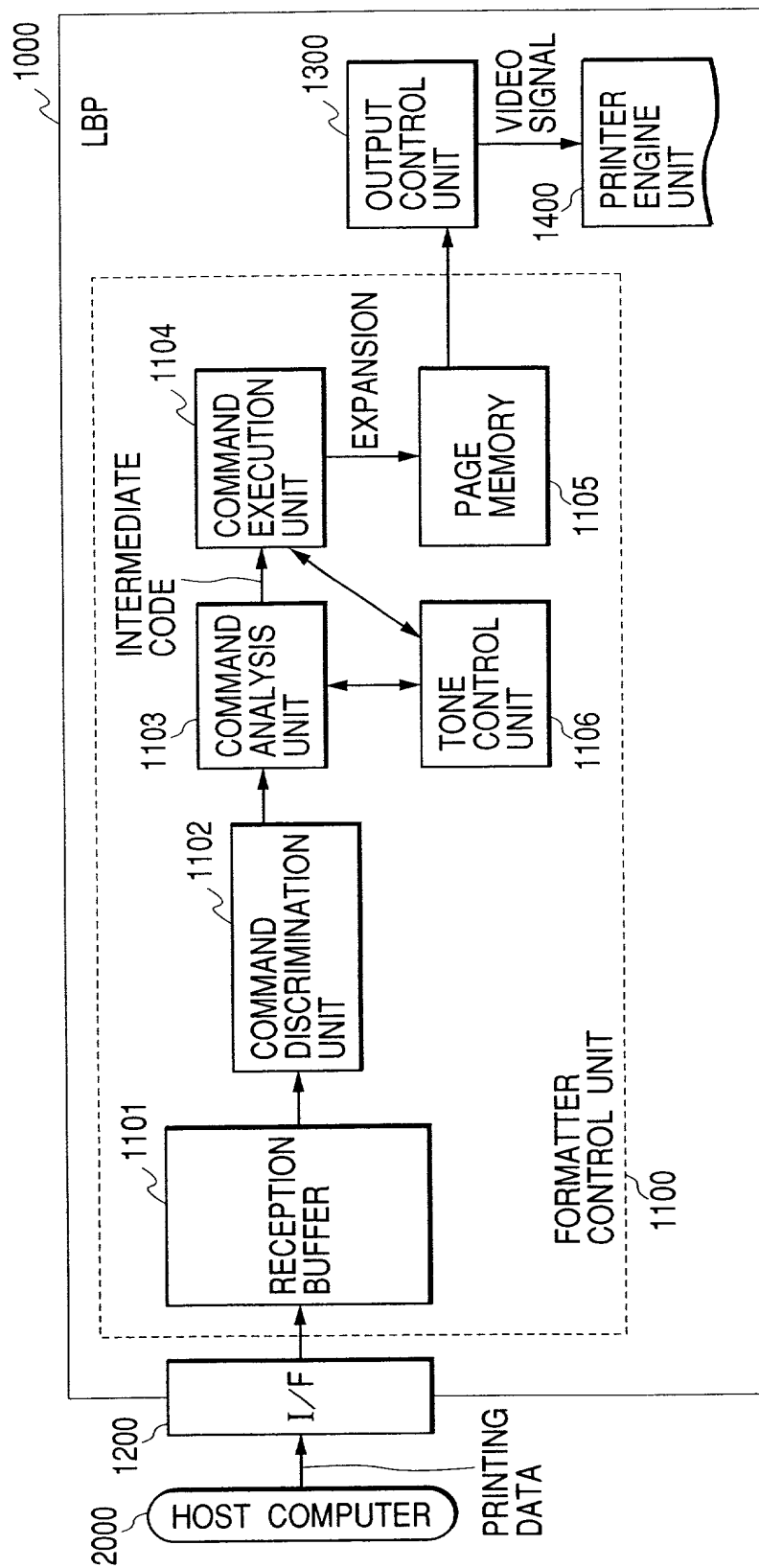


FIG. 3

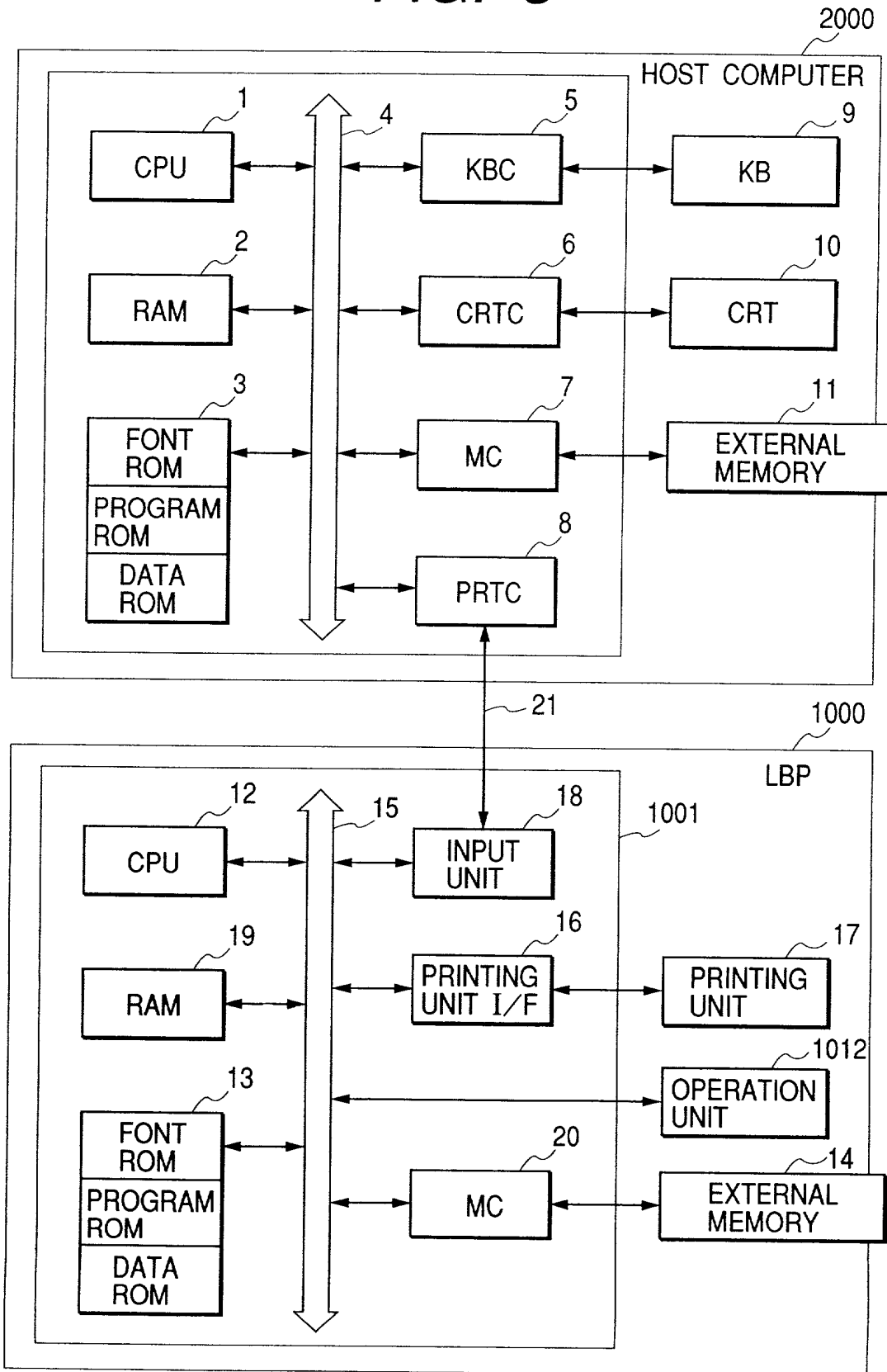


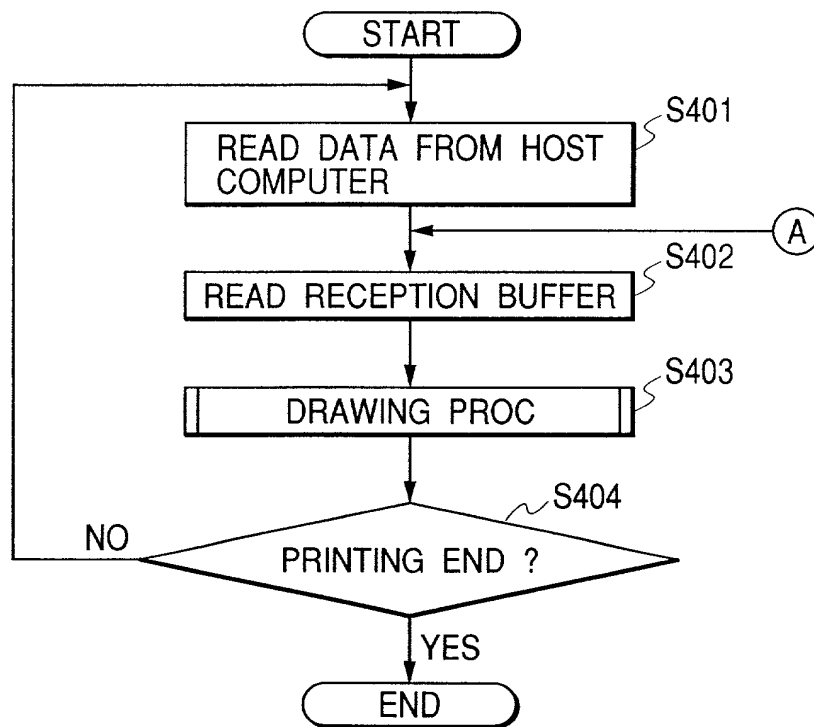
FIG. 4

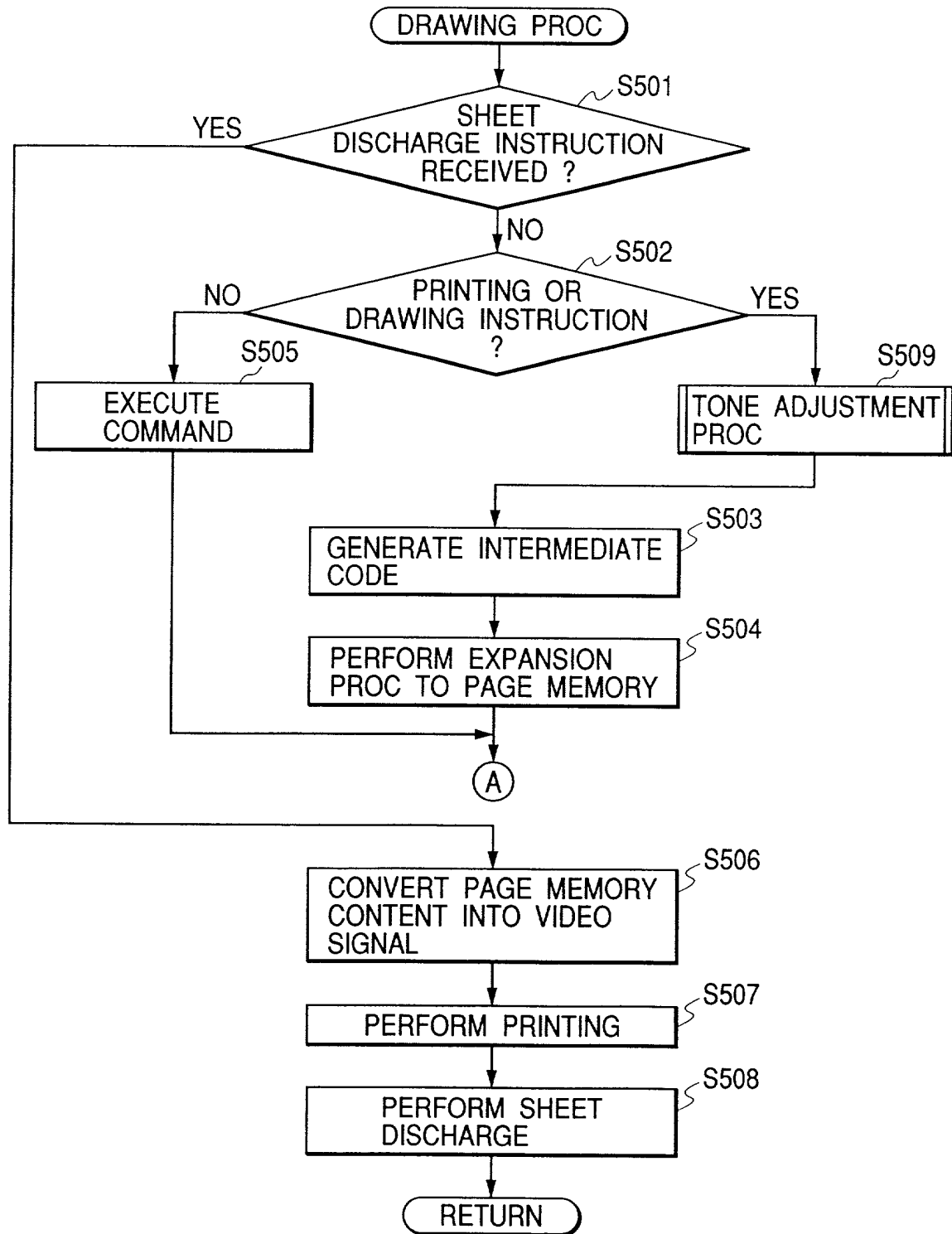
FIG. 5

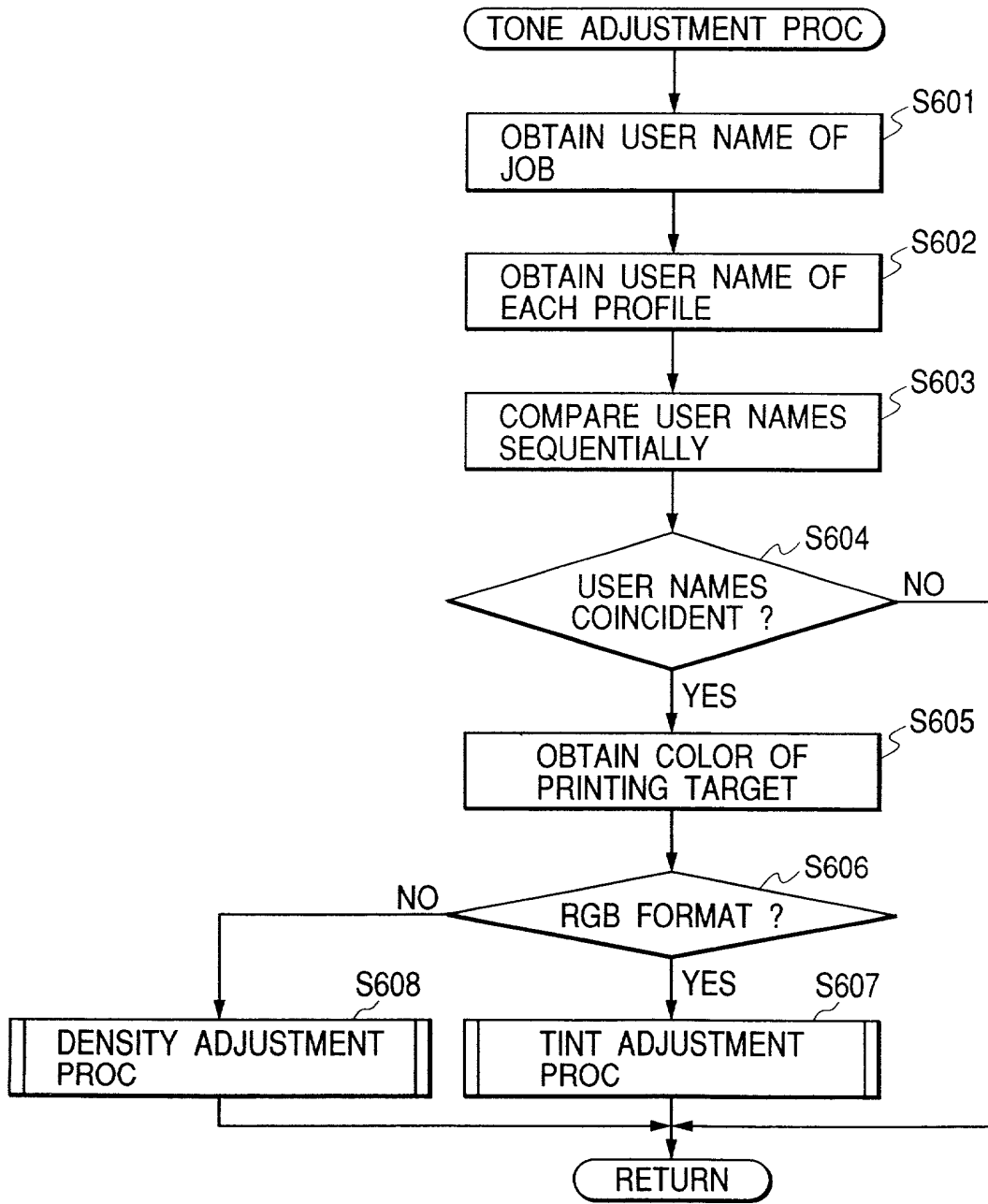
FIG. 6

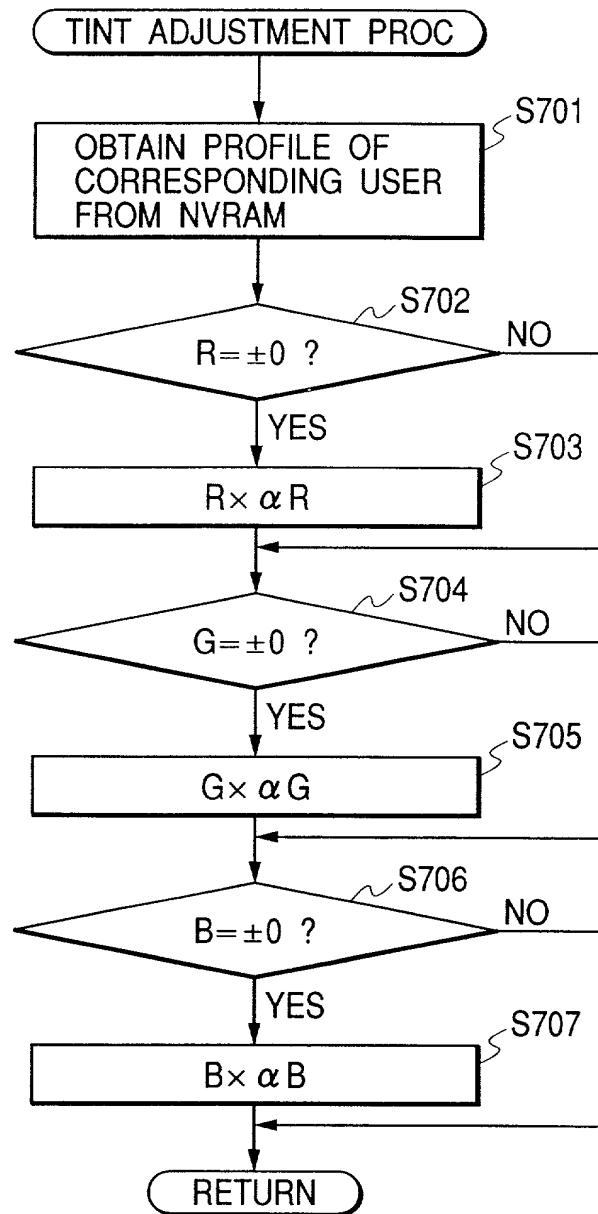
FIG. 7

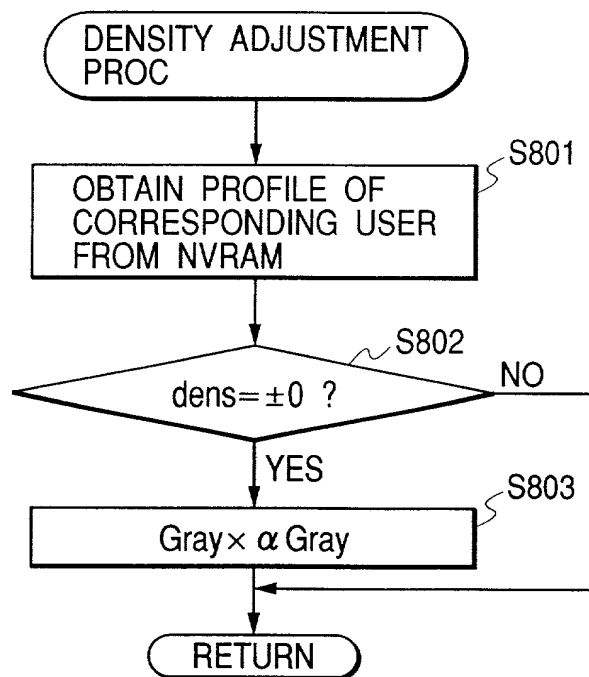
FIG. 8

FIG. 9

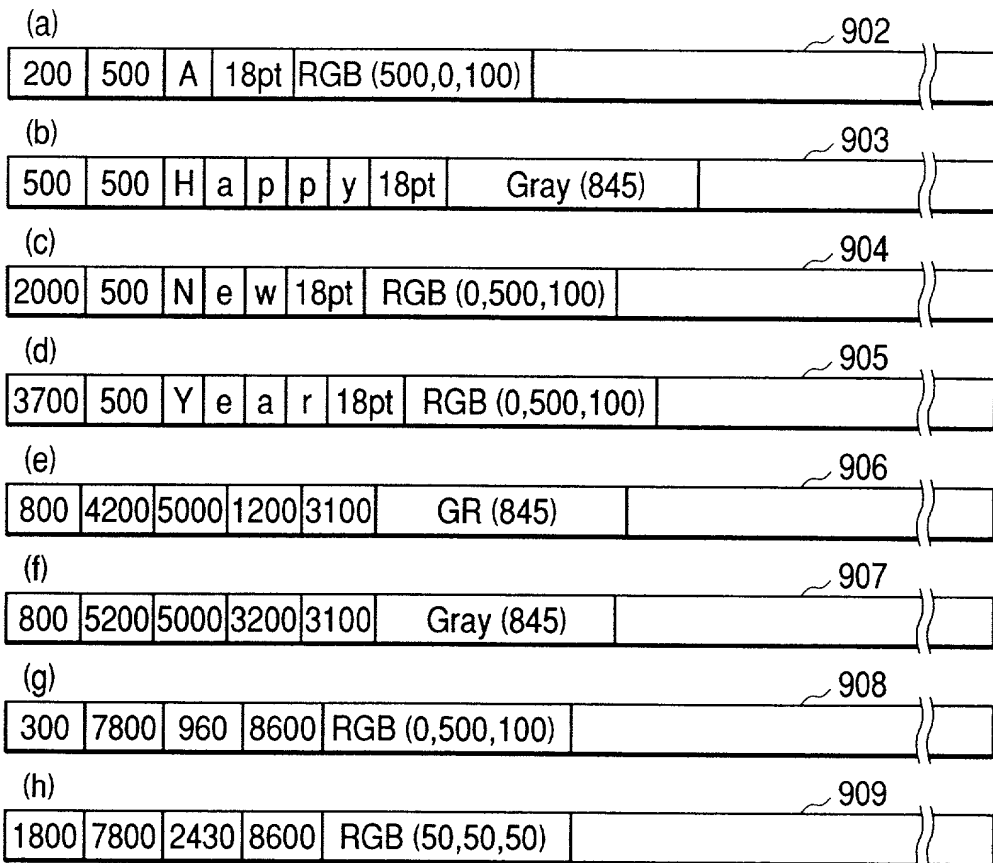
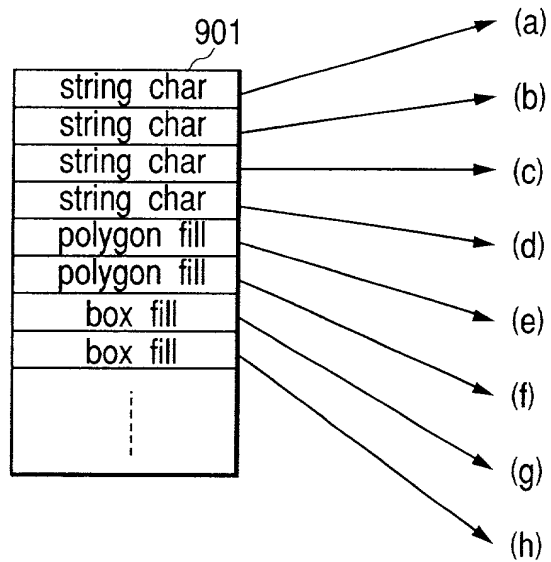


FIG. 10A



FIG. 10B



FIG. 10C



FIG. 10D



FIG. 12

<	u	s	e	r	:	y	a	m	a	m	o	t	o	>				
						d	e	n	s	i	t	y	:	+ 2 0				
						r	e	d	(R)	+	3 0		b	l	u	e	(B)	1 0
						g	r	e	e	n	(G)	:	+	0				

FIG. 13

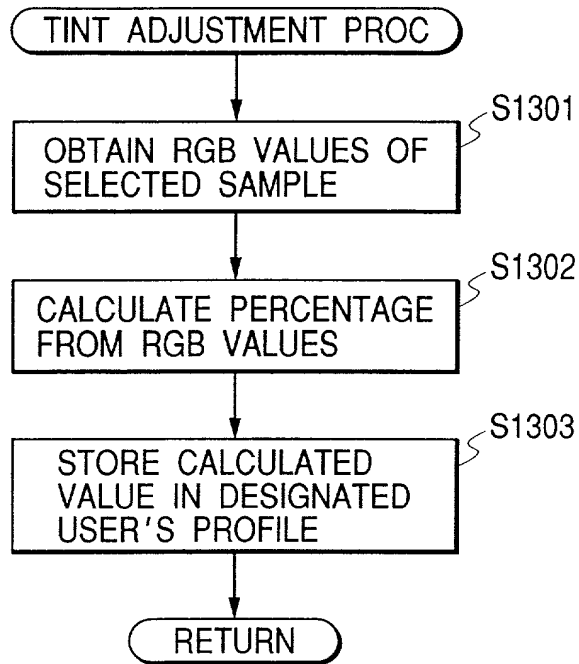


FIG. 14

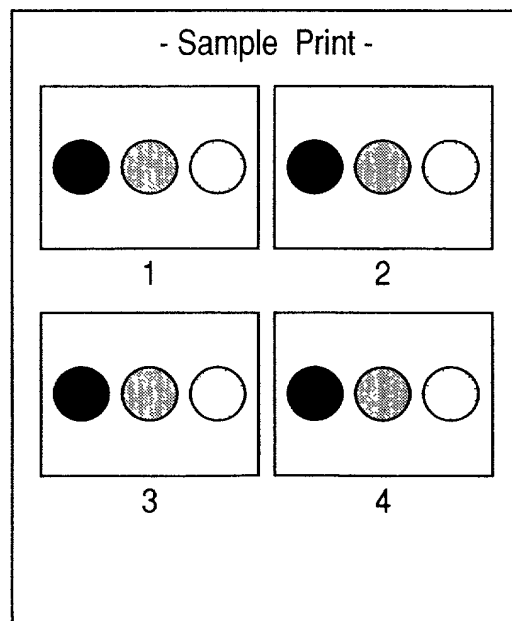


FIG. 16

[illegible]

FIG. 17

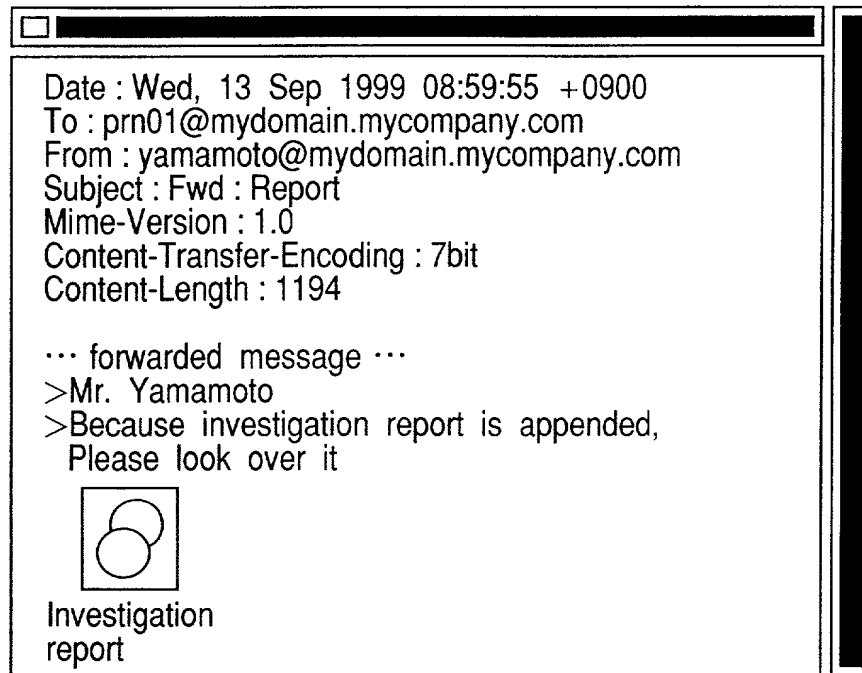


FIG. 18

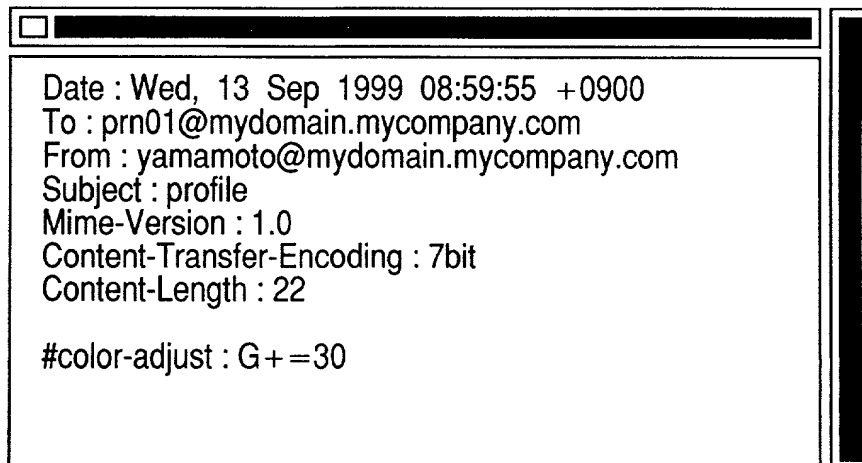


FIG. 19

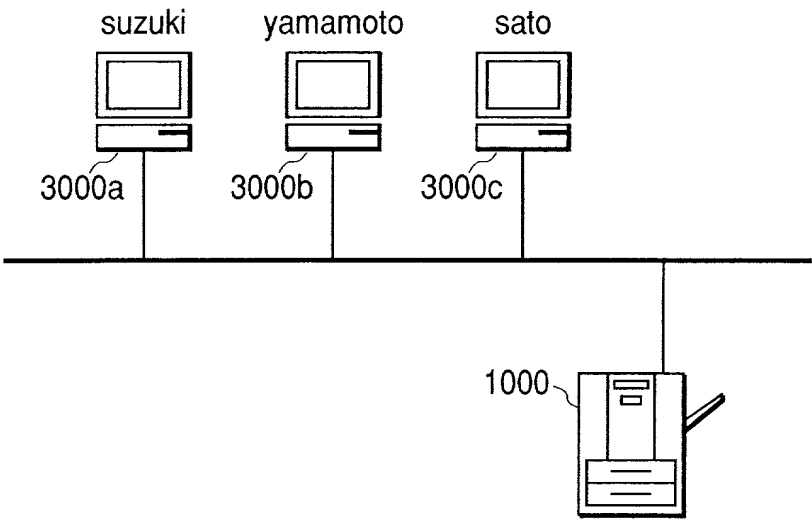


FIG. 20

suzuki@...	0	0	0
sato@...	0	0	0
yamamoto@...	0	30	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮